

value of money, but even the official numbers, which are massaged downwards, are only on the order of 4 percent per year. Sales taxes in many states can take away 8 percent or more on every single transaction in which consumers wish to convert their Federal Reserve Notes into gold or silver.

In conclusion, Madam Speaker, allowing for competing currencies will allow market participants to choose a currency that suits their needs, rather than the needs of the government. The prospect of American citizens turning away from the dollar towards alternate currencies will provide the necessary impetus to the U.S. Government to regain control of the dollar and halt its downward spiral. Restoring soundness to the dollar will remove the government's ability and incentive to inflate the currency, and keep us from launching unconstitutional wars that burden our economy to excess. With a sound currency, everyone is better off, not just those who control the monetary system. I urge my colleagues to consider the redevelopment of a system of competing currencies and cosponsor the Free Competition in Currency Act.

OPPOSITION TO THE STUPAK AMENDMENT

HON. LOUISE McINTOSH SLAUGHTER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 9, 2009

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Madam Speaker, I have witnessed the horror of the choice between a back alley abortion and a forced marriage to avoid disgrace.

These were the realities women faced prior to 1973. My fear is that if this harmful Stupak/Pitts language is signed into law, we will revert back to those dark times.

Critical to this debate is to break down the facts. The opposition claims that the Stupak/Pitts amendment codifies current law. This is grossly incorrect.

Stupak-Pitts goes far beyond current law by placing unprecedented restrictions on individuals' use of their own private dollars. The Hyde amendment does not apply to private funding nor does it apply to administrative costs. It has only placed limits on direct Federal appropriations being used to fund abortion benefits. The Stupak amendment expands the Hyde prohibitions on the use of federal funds for an abortion benefit to include "any part of the costs of any health plan that includes coverage of abortion."

The opposition claims that this amendment will not change current insurance plans for women. This is blatantly wrong.

A report by health policy experts at the George Washington University School of Public Health concludes that the Stupak amendment "will have an industry-wide effect, eliminating coverage of medically indicated abortions over time for all women, not only those whose coverage is derived through a health insurance exchange."

The opposition claims that the segregation of funding under the House bill is an accounting sham. This is blatantly false.

In the Capps amendment, the segregation of funding piece is based on the current model the Federal Government uses to pay for abortions permitted in Medicaid.

I am afraid that we are driving young women, poor women, back to the dark alley, and I dread to see that day.

EXPRESSING CONGRATULATIONS TO GLENVILLE HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL TEAM ON HISTORIC 2009 SEASON

HON. MARCIA L. FUDGE

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 9, 2009

Ms. FUDGE. Madam Speaker, I rise to congratulate the Glenville High School football team on its historic season. This Division I team became the first Cleveland Public School to compete for the state championship last Saturday.

While track icon Jesse Owens and the creators of Superman were products of Glenville, it has never had a state football champion.

This year's players are champions in every sense of the word. They play football at Glenville High School for the structure that football provides and the mentorship of their coach, Ted Ginn, Sr.

More than 100 of Ginn's players have earned athletic scholarships. Five play in the NFL.

Glenville played valiantly in the state championship, but lost by one point.

Again, I congratulate the Glenville High football team, students, Coach Ginn, his assistant coaches, our supportive community, and Glenville Principal Jacqueline Bell on an amazing season. Next year they will bring home the trophy!

OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL DEBT

HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 9, 2009

Mr. COFFMAN of Colorado. Madam Speaker, today our national debt is \$12,091,292,877,094.86. We have increased the national debt \$5,120,762,726.63 since just yesterday.

On January 6, 2009, the start of the 111th Congress, the national debt was \$10,638,425,746,293.80.

This means the national debt has increased by \$1,452,867,130,801.06 so far this year.

According to the nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office, the forecast deficit for this year is \$1.6 trillion. That means that so far this year, we borrowed and spent \$4.4 billion a day more than we have collected, passing that debt and its interest payments to our children and all future Americans.

EARMARK DECLARATION

HON. KEVIN BRADY

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 9, 2009

Mr. BRADY of Texas. Madam Speaker, pursuant to the Republican leadership standards

on earmarks, I am submitting the following information regarding earmarks my district received as part of H.R. 3288—Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2010.

Requesting Member: Congressman KEVIN BRADY, Texas 8th Congressional District
Bill Number: H.R. 3288—Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2010

Project: 1-69 Texas Environmental Studies, TX

Account: Interstate Maintenance Discretionary, Federal Highway Administration

Requesting Entity: Alliance for I-69 Texas, Texas Department of Transportation

Address of Requesting Entity: 1200 Smith, Suite 700, Houston, TX 77002

The original I-69 project began in 1991 and involves long-planned upgrades of US 59, 277 and 281 to interstate standards to increase motorist safety and mobility in the Houston and East Texas region. It is, thankfully, no longer included in the ill-fated Trans Texas Corridor. The original project enjoys the support of a broad collaboration of mayors, county judges, economic development groups, chambers of commerce and transportation officials from dozens of Texas communities, including several in the Eighth Congressional District. The \$500,000 I requested on behalf of the Texas leaders of the I-69 coalition will provide the Texas Department of Transportation funding to complete the necessary environmental studies to begin construction on these much needed upgrades.

This bill also credits me, four of my colleagues in the House and our two distinguished Senators as requesting an additional \$1.5 million under the Interstate Maintenance Discretionary and the Surface Transportation Priorities accounts. I appreciate the support of my colleagues and the Committee for this important project. I know the additional funds are greatly needed. However, in all honesty, the other members deserve credit for these funds since I submitted only the original \$500,000 funding for the environmental studies.

Requesting Member: Congressman KEVIN BRADY, Texas 8th Congressional District

Bill Number: H.R. 3288—Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2010

Project: The District Capital Cost of Contracting, Montgomery County, TX

Account: Buses and Bus Facilities, Federal Transit Administration

Requesting Entity: The Brazos Transit District (The District)

Address of Requesting Entity: 1759 N. Earl Rudder Freeway, Bryan, Texas 77803

This request helps provide an important transportation service to over 700,000 Montgomery County commuters each year through four Park-and-Ride facilities. It also helps provide regular van service for East Texas veterans to VA facilities in the region. Through these services, the funding also helps reduce congestion along Interstate 45 and helps the region meet its clear air goals.

The \$1,000,000 included in this bill reduces the equipment costs of providing these transportation services.

Requesting Member: Congressman KEVIN BRADY, Texas 8th Congressional District

Bill Number: H.R. 3288—Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2010

Project: Pulmonary Hypertension Awareness Program

Account: Department of Health and Human Services, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention